

**Political Science 544**  
**International Security and the Causes of War**  
**Spring Quarter, 2007**

**Monday & Wednesday 1:30 PM – 3:18 PM**

Room: 1180 Postle Hall (PH)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday

12:15pm–1:15pm

*or by appointment*

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**COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

For Students with Last Names A-L:

TA: Clément Wyplosz

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Office Hours: Thursday

1:00pm–3:00pm

*or by appointment*

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For Students with Last Names M-Z:

TA: Lorenzo Zambarnardi

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Office Hours: Wednesday

3:30pm–5:30pm

*or by appointment*

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**Course Description**

International Security and the Causes of War is an advanced undergraduate course in International Relations (IR). This course examines various issues regarding international conflict and cooperation. As such, the course will provide the opportunity for students to examine and contemplate in detail some of the rich theoretical literature of the past few decades in the study of international conflict in American Political Science. While current issues such as the War in Iraq and the War on Terror will loom large in our theoretical discussions, the central purpose of the course will be to provide a general conceptual framework for understanding the phenomenon of international violence in the past and future, as well as the present.

This course is divided into two parts: theories of strategic interaction and the causes of war. Because much of what is interesting in the study of international relations does not involve strategies of pure conflict (zero-sum games), the course begins with a focus on theories of interdependent decisionmaking in mixed-motive games, which model conflict as a bargaining situation. The second half of the course investigates a wide range of theories on the causes of war, including power shifts, economic interdependence and autarky, institutions, domestic politics, regime type, and misperception.

The end purpose of this class will be to provide students with the necessary tools to understand and interpret international political events and problems. The course, while invaluable to Political Science and International Studies majors, has been designed with non-Political Scientists in mind as well. In the end, the focus of this course will be to provide the necessary theoretical and analytical background for all students to critically observe the evolution of international conflict as they continue their lives in the twenty-first century.

## Readings

There are two required books for this course. Also, students will be asked to read material contained on the Ohio State Carmen online course management system. The books you are to purchase should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the books online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Brown, M., S. Lynn-Jones, and S. Miller (ed.s), *The Perils of Anarchy*. Boston, MA: MIT Press, 1995. ISBN: 0262522020

Gilpin, Robert. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1984. ISBN: 0521273765

In addition, there will be **twenty-six** additional readings that you will be asked to access at your own convenience via the OSU electronic reserve system on Carmen. You can access, download, or print the included readings (in .pdf form) on any on-campus or off-campus computer with Internet access. For additional information, see the “Carmen” section of this syllabus on Page 3.

Also, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* (www.economist.com), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or *Newsweek* (www.newsweek.com), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades in exams.

## The Determination of Grades

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in two areas:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1. In-Class Midterm Exam</b>      | <b>50%</b>  |
| <b>2. Take-Home Final Exam Paper</b> | <b>50%</b>  |
| <b>FINAL GRADE</b>                   | <b>100%</b> |

My grading scale for the exams and final course grades is as follows:

|           |          |                   |                              |          |                      |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|
| <b>A</b>  | <b>=</b> | <b>100% - 92%</b> | <b>C+</b>                    | <b>=</b> | <b>80% - 78%</b>     |
| <b>A-</b> | <b>=</b> | <b>92% - 90%</b>  | <b>C</b>                     | <b>=</b> | <b>78% - 72%</b>     |
| <b>B+</b> | <b>=</b> | <b>90% - 88%</b>  | <b>C-</b>                    | <b>=</b> | <b>72% - 70%</b>     |
| <b>B</b>  | <b>=</b> | <b>88% - 82%</b>  | <b>D+</b>                    | <b>=</b> | <b>70% - 68%</b>     |
| <b>B-</b> | <b>=</b> | <b>82% - 80%</b>  | <b>D</b>                     | <b>=</b> | <b>68% - 60%</b>     |
|           |          |                   | <b>E (also known as “F”)</b> | <b>=</b> | <b>Less than 60%</b> |

## **Carmen (Online Course Management System)**

This class will employ Ohio State's "Carmen" online system to distribute readings not found in your required books. Also, Carmen will house an online copy of this syllabus should you ever lose yours. To access Carmen, if you have not yet done so before, employ the following steps:

1. Go to the Ohio State website ([www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)).
2. Click on "Current Students" entry near the top of the screen.
3. On the next screen, Click on the "Carmen (Course Management System)" entry under the "Computing" list.
4. On the next screen, click "Log In"
5. You will be asked to log in using your OSU Internet Username and Password (if you have not activated a username yet, contact the Ohio State OIT Technology Support Center at 614-688-4357)
6. On the next screen, if you are properly registered for the course, you should see the entry "POLIT SC 544 (REESE)" under the "Political Science" heading under the "Spring 2007" heading under the "My Courses" section of your Carmen homepage. Click the "POLITSC 544 (REESE) entry to advance to the class homepage.

We will employ the "Content" function of Carmen in this class. The "Grades," "Discussions," and "Dropbox" functions will not be used...however, feel free to email your TAs ([wyplosz.1@osu.edu](mailto:wyplosz.1@osu.edu) for Clement and [zambenardi.1@osu.edu](mailto:zambenardi.1@osu.edu) for Lorenzo) or me ([reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu)) at any time during the course to check your grade status or ask questions about the course material.

If you click on the "Content" tab, you will see a listing of the syllabus and all readings (all in .pdf format). The readings for the entire course will be fully available from the first day (in case you want to print them all up at once and/or get a head start on later work).

## **Student Responsibilities**

### **Attendance:**

This is primarily a lecture course. Lecture courses will do you no good if you are not around to hear the lectures. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session. I will not, however, take attendance (the class is far too large for this to be practical). If you do happen to miss a lecture, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire the lecture notes from a classmate (my notes will do you little good). This is important because we sometimes cover material in lecture not contained in the assigned reading. In short, you may miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. Also, given the difficulty of many of our readings it is highly advised you attend so that I may answer questions on what may be, at times, very opaque and abstract ideas.

It is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days that exams are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if you present me with a documented excuse

for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center.

### **Reading:**

One of the most important requirements of this course is the performance of the assigned readings. You will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, you are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. It is important to keep up with this reading. I cannot emphasize enough that although we do not discuss everything in lecture covered in your readings you will be expected to answer exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues (i.e. merely showing up for lecture will *not* be enough to do well in this course). Do note that the reading commitment for this course is very heavy (though heavier on some days and lighter on others). Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly on exams. Some of the reading we will be doing is quite dense...so do not expect you can catch up on it all a day or two before the exams.

### **Exams:**

There will be two exams held during this course: a midterm and a final. Both exams will be completely essay based (i.e. no identifications or multiple choice). For the midterm, which will be a *closed book* in-class exam, you will be required to answer two out of four essay questions. The final will be a take-home exam, in which you will answer one of two essay questions in the form of a brief paper (approximately five pages typed plus or minus a page, double-spaced).

### **Communication with Your Instruction Team:**

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me or your assigned TA with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. It is highly advised that you start by contacting your TA and coming to me if they are not able to assist you sufficiently. The TAs are there to help you through what at times is very difficult material...so take advantage of them and their expertise. As such, it is a good idea to try and touch base with your TA early in the quarter and contact them regularly. Do be aware I will almost certainly defer to the judgment of my TAs regarding your grades, so do try and work out grade problems or questions with them before you come to me.

We are easiest to contact via e-mail ([reese.150@osu.edu](mailto:reese.150@osu.edu) for me, [wyplosz.1@osu.edu](mailto:wyplosz.1@osu.edu) for Clement and [zamberardi.1@osu.edu](mailto:zamberardi.1@osu.edu) for Lorenzo) which we do check with consistent regularity. Also, we shall all be holding regular office hours (see the front cover of this syllabus for office hours and locations for each of us) each week and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet any of us outside of our regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give us at least 24 hours notice to make sure we can accommodate you.

It is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact their instructors. Please be aware that, since you are being graded solely on the basis of two exams, a bad midterm may *seriously* handicap your grade in this course. So do try to keep on top of things and take advantage of our services. We are here to help. If you wait until after you bomb the midterm exam, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

**Academic Honesty:**

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

**Disability:**

If you need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than April 6<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office For Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

**Course Schedule**

March            26        **Introduction**

***SECTION I: THEORIES OF STRATEGIC INTERACTION*****A. ANARCHY, WAR, AND THE LEVELS OF ANALYSIS**

28        **Streetcars Colliding in Sarajevo and the War to End all Wars**

Read: - Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Summer 1984), pp.58-107. **(On Carmen)**

- Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State, and War, pp. 16-41, 80-85, 159-65. **(On Carmen)**

April

2      **Different Approaches to the Problem of Conflict**

Read: - Patrick James, "Structural Realism and the Causes of War," *Mershon International Studies Review*, Vol. 39 (1995), pp. 181-208. **(On Carmen)**

- Robert Jervis, "Perception and the Level of Analysis Problem," in Jervis, Perception and Misperception in International Politics (Princeton UP, 1976), chap 1. **(On Carmen)**

**B. BARGAINING WITH BLOOD**

4      **Coercion, Brute Force, and the Diplomacy of Violence**

Read: - Thomas Schelling, Arms and Influence, chaps. 1-2. **(On Carmen)**

9      **Deterrence**

Read: - Robert Jervis, "Deterrence Theory Revisited," *World Politics*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (January 1979), pp. 289-324. **(On Carmen)**

- Jack Levy, "When Do Deterrent Threats Work?" *British Journal of Political Science* 18 (October 1988), pp. 485-512. **(On Carmen)**

11     **The Security Dilemma and War: Offense-Defense Theory**

Read: - Charles Glaser, "Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* 30 (January 1978), pp. 167-214. **(On Carmen)**

16     **Rationalist Explanations for War**

Read: - James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War,"  
*International Organization*, Vol. 49, No.3 (Summer  
1995), pp. 379-414. **(On Carmen)**

- Jonathan Kirshner, "Rationalist Explanations for War?"  
*Security Studies* 10 (Summer 2000), pp. 143-50.  
**(On Carmen)**

18     **Positive Sanctions: Accommodation, Appeasement, and Assurance**

Read: - J. David Baldwin, "The Power of Positive Sanctions,"  
*World Politics* 24 (October 1971):19-38. **(On  
Carmen)**

- Robert Keohane, "Reciprocity in International Relations,"  
*International Organization* 40 (1986):1-28. **(On  
Carmen)**

- Paul Kennedy, "The Tradition of Appeasement in British  
Foreign Policy, 1865-1939" from Strategy and  
Diplomacy 1970-1945 (1983). **(On Carmen)**

- Richard Ned Lebow and Janice Gross Stein, "Beyond  
Deterrence," *Journal of Social Issues* 43 (Winter  
1987):5-71. **(On Carmen)**

23     **Catch-Up Day & Exam Review**

25     \*\*\*\*\*MIDTERM EXAM\*\*\*\*\*

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

## SECTION II: CAUSES OF WAR

### A. STRUCTURAL-SYSTEMIC THEORIES OF WAR

30     **Change and the Cyclical Search for Hegemony**

Read: - Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (entire book).

May     2     **Power Transitions and War**

Read: - William Wohlforth, "Realism and the End of the Cold War" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

- Jack Levy, "Declining Power and the Preventive Motivation for War," *World Politics* 40 (October 1987), pp. 82-107. **(On Carmen)**

7     **Institutions, Order, and the Causes of Peace?**

Read: - G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars* (Princeton University Press, 2001), chap 1. **(On Carmen)**

- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

- Randall Schweller, "The Problem of International Order Revisited: A Review Essay," *International Security* 26 (Summer 2001), pp. 161-186. **(On Carmen)**

9     **Alliances and War**

Read: - Stephen Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

- Randall Schweller, "Bandwagoning For Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

14     **Does Trade or Conquest Pay Better?**

Read: - Peter Liberman, "The Spoils of Conquest" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

- Dale Copeland, "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations," *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Spring 1996), pp. 5-41. **(On Carmen)**

**B. DOMESTIC POLITICAL THEORIES OF WAR**

16     **Myths, Cartels, and Revolutionaries: Politically Motivated War**

Read: - Jack S. Levy, "Domestic Politics and War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol.18, No.4, (Spring 1988), pp.653-673. **(On Carmen)**

- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, chaps. 1, 2. **(On Carmen)**
- Jack Snyder, "Imperial Temptations," *National Interest* (Spring 2003). **(On Carmen)**
- Walt, "Revolution and War," *World Politics* 44, no. 3 (April 1992). **(On Carmen)**

21     **Brotherhood via the Ballot?: Regime Type and the Democratic Peace**

Read: - Sebastian Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *American Political Science Review* 97 (November 2003), pp. 585-602. **(On Carmen)**

- Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace" in *The Perils of Anarchy*.
- T. Clifton Morgan and Kenneth N. Bickers. "Domestic Discontent and the External Use of Force" in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol.36, No.1 (March 1992), pp.25-52. **(On Carmen)**

## C. INDIVIDUAL DECISIONMAKING (PSYCHOLOGICAL) THEORIES OF WAR

23     **The Doors of Perception: The Psychology of Conflict**

Read: - Robert Jervis, "War and Misperception," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4, (Spring, 1988), pp. 675-700. **(On Carmen)**

- Jack Levy, "Prospect Theory, Rational Choice, and International Relations," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol.41, No.1 (March 1997), pp.87-112. **(On Carmen)**

28     \*\*\*\*\*MEMORIAL DAY\*\*\*\*\*  
       **(No Class Today!!!!)**

30     **Course Wrap-up & Final Exam Review**  
       **(\*\*Final Exams Distributed In Class Today\*\*)**

**Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*\*\*FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE FINAL WILL DUE AT MY DERBY HALL  
OFFICE OR MAILBOX NO LATER THAN 3:30  
PM**